REMARKS

The specification has been amended to add section headings and Figure 5 has been amended in response to the criticism in the Official Action.

Claims 1-4 and 6 were rejected as unpatentable over PASSERA 5,909,681, in view of KRUM 6,618,820.

The Official Action acknowledges that PASSERA fails to teach managing the slave computers as a function of their availability, and relies on KRUM for disclosing the feature missing in PASSERA. However, neither PASSERA nor KRUM discloses "an executable master application for managing the tasks of each slave computer as a function of their availability", as recited in claim 1.

Instead, KRUM teaches an estimation of the slave computer's load by determining the load that each application program represents, if run on a computer (column 3, lines 23-27).

Accordingly, the "computing resource load" is simply the sum of these estimations, resulting from each application program that the master computer is aware of.

Such an estimation cannot be compared to the availability, as recited in claim 1 as the estimation according to KRUM can differ from the real load of the computer due, for example, to local program and competing use of the resources.

Furthermore, neither PASSERA nor KRUM contains any suggestion that they be combined in the manner as indicated by the Official Action.

In particular, there is no teaching or suggestion in either of these references that the estimation of computing resources load taught by KRUM can be combined with the PASSSERA system.

In fact, any combination would lead to a nonoperational system because, according to PASSERA, master and slave computers store and execute the appropriate application for configuring themselves, which is not compatible with the teaching of KRUM where the master evaluates the configuration of each slave to evaluate its computing resource load.

It is not clear in such a combination how the slave computers could configure themselves according to PASSERA.

It is also submitted that the applied references do not suggest the use of an algorithm for configuring the other computers as slave computers.

PASSERA recites a system in which master and slave computers are defined in advance. No suggestion is made of an evolving system where an algorithm can dynamically configure the network computers as master or slaves.

Accordingly, neither PASESRA nor KRUM alone or in combination, describes nor suggests the features recited in claim

1, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Claim 2 is further allowable because PASSERA does not disclose that a master application, when executed, configures the machine as a master computer, as recited in claim 2. The passages indicated in the Official Action state that the BuildModel_Master program code is stored in the master processor (col. 6, lines 1-3) and not that the program codes are executed to configure the machine. Accordingly, claim 2 also avoids the art of record.

Claims 5 and 9 were rejected as unpatentable over PASSERA in view of KRUM and WEISS et al., 6,071,190. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

WEISS et al. has been carefully reviewed and it is not seen in this reference where the features recited in claim 5 are taught or suggested. The Official Action indicates that it would have been obvious to use a unique signature for imposing security between communications of master and slave computers. However, we do not find any hint that WEISS et al.'s teaching can be used in a communication device. Furthermore, the object of claim 5 does not use a unique signature but uses an electronic signature in each master and each slave. PASSERA, KRUM and WEISS et al. fail to describe the features of claim 5 related to the recording of an

electronic signature in each master computer as they are all based on the single master computer architecture.

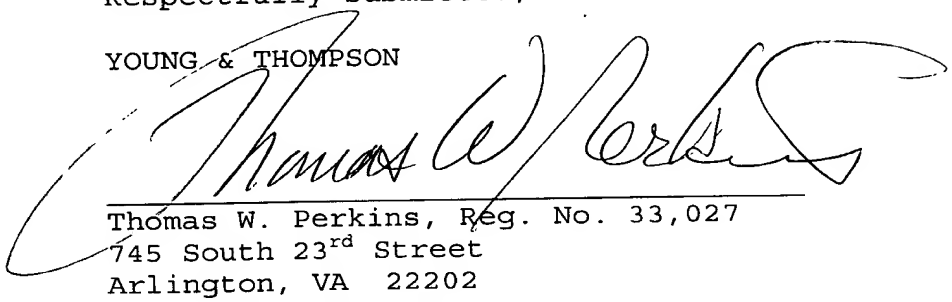
Claim 10 was rejected as unpatentable over PASSERA-KRUM-WEISS et al. and further in view of COLYER et al. 6,151,621. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested for the reasons given above.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



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TWP/mjr
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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- a Replacement Sheet for Figure 5 of the drawings

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The Replacement Sheet in the Appendix includes changes to Figure 5. In Figure 5, the previous omitted element descriptions have been added.